CHURCH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT FOR 1913.

To the Chairman and Members of the Church Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting to you my report as Medical Officer on the health and general sanitary condition of the District for the year ending December 31st, 1913.

The area of the Township, exclusive of water, is 528 acres.

For the purposes of this report, I have estimated the population at the middle of 1913 at 7,000; at the census of 1911 it was 6,891.

BIRTHS.

During the year, the births, including 3 transferred inwardly, numbered 161,—87 boys and 74 girls, giving a birth rate of 23, which is considerably higher than the low rate of the previous year, when there were 124 births, and the rate was 17.8. It is also in excess of the average birth rate for the previous 5 years—21.7. 4 of the children born in 1913 were illegitimate.

DEATHS.

The deaths, excluding 5 non-residents who died within the district, but including 14 residents who died outside the Township, totalled 96—54 males and 42 females, producing a death rate of 13.7, which compares very favourably with the average rate for the previous 5 years—15.9, but is considerably more than the rate for 1912, when the death rate fell to the low level of 11.6, and the number of deaths was 81.

16 of the deaths were due to bronchitis, 13 to heart disease, 5 to pneumonia, while 3 each were due to cancer, phthisis, and Bright's disease, and 2 to suicide. 13 of the deaths occurred under the age of 1 year, 5 between 1 and 2 years, 4 between 2 and 5 years, 4 between 5 and 15 years, 4 between 15 and 25 years, 10 between 25 and 45 years, 26 between 45 and 65 years, while 30 occurred in persons over the age of 65 years.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The 13 deaths under the age of 1 year give an infantile death rate of 80 per 1000 births, which is the lowest infantile mortality ever recorded in Church, and shows a slight decrease over the figures of the previous year when the rate was 88. In 1911 the rate reached the appaling one of 251 per 1000 births, while the average rate for the last five years was 159, and the big improvement shewn during the years 1912 and 1913 is most gratifying, and I sincerely hope that this will be maintained in the future.

4 infant deaths were due to congenital debility, 4 to convulsions, 2 each to pneumonia and bronchitis, while 1 was due to diarrhœa.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

Zymotic disease was the cause of 6 deaths, of which 2 were due to whooping cough, 2 to diphtheria, and 1 each to enteric fever and diarrhœa. The zymotic death rate is .85, which is just double what it was in 1912, but in that year there were no deaths due to whooping cough nor enteric fever.

RESPIRATORY DISEASES.

21 deaths were due to respiratory diseases: 16 to bronchitis and 5 to pneumonia, giving a death rate of 3. This is much in excess of the rate for 1912, when respiratory diseases caused 13 deaths, and the rate was 1.8.

PHTHISIS.

Pulmonary tuberculosis was the cause of 3 deaths and produces a rate of .42, which compares very favourably with the rate of .86 in the previous year, when the number of deaths was 6. Other tubercular diseases caused 5 deaths, so that the total number of deaths from all forms of tuberculosis was 8, giving a death rate of 1.1.

CANCER.

Cancer was assigned as the cause of 3 deaths, giving a rate of .42. In 1912 7 deaths were due to this disease, and the rate was 1.0.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year 28 cases of infectious diseases were notified, viz: 7 cases of scarlet fever, 6 of erysipelas, 4 of diphtheria, 1 of enteric fever, 7 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, and 3 of tuberculosis other than pulmonary. 3 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, 2 of diphtheria, and 1 of enteric fever ended fatally.

The number of infectious cases notified is much below the average, and during the twelve months the Township has been singularly free from such diseases.

INSPECTION OF HOUSES OF THE WORKING CLASSES.

The number of houses inspected under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1909, was 46, and these included all the doubtful class of property in the district. The condition of most of the houses was fairly good. The defects found were mainly due to defective sanitation dampness, and in some cases to want of cleanliness on the part of the tenants.

Improvement still continues to be made with regard to the sanitary conveniences.

At present the demand for houses in the district is slightly in excess of the supply.

The "Model" lodging house erected last year has been frequently visited, and, with the exception of some minor details, has always been found satisfactory.

ACTION TAKEN IN 1913:

No. of houses inspected ...	46
,, ,, considered unfit for habitation	0
,, representations to authority with a view to making closing orders	0
,, closing orders made ...	0
No. of houses in which defects were remedied without making closing orders ...	14
,, houses put into fit state of habitation after making closing orders	0
,, houses demolished ...	0

General character of defects found to exist: defective sanitation dampness, want of cleanliness.

SEWERAGE.

The sewerage is efficiently dealt with at the Joint Outfall Works at Coppy Clough.

During the year good progress has been made in constructing the new sewer to supply the Dill Hall District, and it is expected that the work will be completed in about two months.

The Surveyor reports that the number of closets on the various systems and the number of covered ashpits and ashbins is as follows:

Flush closets	1493	Covered ashpits	787
Town's water closets ...	212	Removable ashbins ...	269
Pail closets	191		
Tanks	10		
Total ...	1906	Total ...	1056

8 closets have been converted from the pail to the water flush system, and 17 new closets of the latter type have been constructed.

The scavenging continues to be carried out in a satisfactory manner, and during the year 2797 loads of refuse have been removed to the "tip" by your employees.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

The two slaughterhouses in the district have been frequently inspected and found in moderate condition. The question of erecting a public abattoir still remains in abeyance, and I would again bring this matter before the notice of the Council.

FARMS.

The farms in the district have been periodically inspected, special attention being paid to the condition of the cowsheds and dairies, and these, with the exception of some minor details, are in a satisfactory condition.

MILLS AND WORKSHOPS.

The mills and workshops have been regularly visited, and the condition of their sanitary conveniences is quite satisfactory. During the year no further nuisance has arisen in connection with the Globe Chemical Works,—consequent upon these works being closed down.

WATER SUPPLY.

In spite of the long continued drought of last summer, the water supply during the year has been plentiful and of good quality, and very few complaints have been heard with reference to hardness.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

March 5th, 1914. JAMES CRAIG, M.B., Ch.B.

Church Urban District Council.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

DISTRICT of CHURCH,

For the year ended
December 31st, 1913.

JACKSON, TYP., OSWALDTWISTLE.